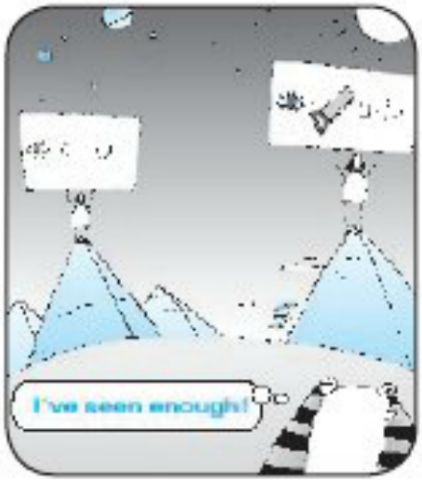
Irregular Verbs



The principal parts of a verb are the **present tense,** the **past tense,** and the **past participle.** While the past principal parts of most verbs are created simply by adding "ed" to the main verb (*like, liked, liked*), the different parts of irregular verbs follow no set pattern (*run, ran, run; bite, bit, bitten*). This makes it more challenging to use the principal parts correctly in your writing. The following activity can help. (See page 772 in *Texas Write Source* for a chart of irregular verbs.)

Directions **A good way to learn these irregular verbs is simply to say them over to yourself several times. They have a certain rhythm that helps to make them stick in your mind. Try these easier ones first. Look at them and say them to yourself several times.**

Present Tense	Past Tense	Past Participle
begin	began	begun
bite	bit	bitten
drink	drank	drunk
see	saw	seen
write	wrote	written

Of course, there are many more troublesome verbs, including the following:

bring	brought	brought
burst	burst	burst
drown	drowned	drowned
swing	swung	swung
wake	woke	woken

Directions **Now try to fill in the blanks below with the principal parts of the verbs you just studied. Try to do it without looking!**

begin		
drink		
write		
swing		
drown		

Directions Now turn to the chart of irregular verbs on page 772 in *Texas Write Source*. Read it slowly to yourself. Listen as a classmate reads it to you. Make note of the verbs that cause you trouble. Study those. Then close your book and fill in the chart that follows. (Check your work when you finish.)

Present Tense	Past Tense	Past Participle
am, is, are		
	bit	
	brought	
catch	*caught*	
come	*came*	
	did	
draw		
eat	*ate*	
fall		
fight		
fly		
		known
lie (recline)		
set		
		shaken
	swam	

Next Step Use the most troublesome verbs (from the list above) in a paragraph. Here's a possible starting point:

I brought a water balloon to the picnic, and it . . .